

In the Specification:

Page 1, delete the heading "Description"

Page 1, before line 6, the paragraph beginning with "The invention is" insert the following headings and paragraph:

-- CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

This is a U.S. national stage application under 35 U.S.C. §371 of international stage application No. PCT/ DE03/00186, filed on 22 January 2003. Priority is claimed under 35 U.S.C. §119(a) and 35 U.S.C. §365(b) from German Patent Application No. 102 03 594.6 which was filed on 23 January 2002, and from which priority was properly claimed in the aforementioned international stage application.--

FIELD OF INVENTION --

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 1, line 9, with the following rewritten paragraph:

-- By casting device it is meant, for example, a continuous casting mold or a strip casting installation such as a twin roller. --

Page 1, before line 11, the paragraph beginning with "An immersion nozzle", insert the following heading:

-- BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION --

Page 1, before line 21, the paragraph beginning with "Therefore, it is", insert the following heading:

-- SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION --

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 1, line 21, with the following rewritten paragraph:

-- Therefore, it is the ~~object of the invention to~~ may improve the immersion nozzle of the type mentioned above in such a way that there is an improvement in the flow profile even with larger slab widths. --

Page 1, before line 24, the paragraph beginning with "In an immersion", insert the following heading and paragraph:

-- BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE FIGURES

Fig. 1 is a cross sectional view of an immersion nozzle in accordance with the teachings of the present invention.

Fig. 2 is a side view of an immersion nozzle in accordance with the teachings of the present invention. --

Page 1, before line 24, the paragraph beginning with "In an immersion", please insert the following heading and paragraph:

-- DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS --

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 1, line 24, with the following rewritten paragraph:

-- In an immersion nozzle for a metallurgic vessel arranged upstream of a casting device in which a slit-shaped pour-out opening having a length that is several times greater than its width is provided in the mouth area, the above-stated ~~object is met, according to the invention,~~ in that its cross section widens in the direction of its mouth from a round inlet cross section to a mouth cross section whose one semiaxis is smaller than, and whose other semiaxis extending perpendicular thereto is greater than, the semiaxis of the circular inlet cross section and whose bottom shape or base shape corresponds to that of the body of revolution of an ellipse or of an oval mouth cross section around the greater semiaxis, and in that the slit-shaped outlet opening extends in direction of the greater semiaxis. --

At page 3 at line 6 after the "side wall 4," please insert the following paragraph:

-- A preferred embodiment as shown in Figures 1 and 2 is discussed further below. The immersion nozzle 1 is for a metallurgical casting device and it acts as a guide for molten metal (not shown) passing through the nozzle. The immersion nozzle 1 has a round cross section 10 which is an inlet section located at a top end 1a of the immersion nozzle 1 and the round cross section 10 has a diameter d oriented along a first axis. A base area 12 has an exit slot or slit shaped pour out opening which forms an elliptical mouth opening 2 located at the other end of the immersion nozzle 12, the base area 12. The immersion nozzle 1 has a top section 1c with an increasing width (compare W1 to W2) towards the base area and a bottom section 1b with an increasing width towards the base area. As seen in Figure 2, the immersion nozzle has side wall sections 4 connecting the top section 1c to the bottom section 1b and having a decreasing height (see H1 and

H2) towards the base area (12). The elliptical mouth opening 2 spans the width of the top section at the base area (see W2) and further extends into the side wall sections (see 2a). The elliptical mouth opening 2 shape may widen a flow of the molten metal and create a backflow outside the immersion nozzle which provides improved melting of casting powder located on the surface of a melt. --

At page 4, line 1, please change the heading "Patent Claims" to the heading: "What is claimed is"